Government are committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir. Our views in this regard have been conveyed to the concerned countries. The United States Government have taken note of our views.

Pak Role in Kidnapping of American Tourist

1426. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US has given any indication that Pakistan is responsible for the kidnapping of an American tourist alongwith other foreigners, the murder of a Norwegian tourist by Al-Faran Group and the terrorist activities in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details of the statement made by the US Government in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). The State Department annual report on Patterns of Global Terrorism 1995 states that "one Pakistan-backed group Harkat-ul-Ansar is believed to be linked to Al-Faran, the group that claimed the responsibility for the kidnapping in July in Kashmir of two US citizens, two britons, a German and a Norwegian". The Report also states that there are credible reports of official Pakistani support to militants fighting in Kashmir including Pakistani, Afghan and Arab nationals, and to groups that claimed responsibility for various terrorist bombings in Kashmir.

(c) The above statements in the report on Patterns of Global Terrorism support our position that Pakistan continues to be directly involved in large scale promotion and support of terrorist activities in India, with the supply of arms, equipment, training and infiltration.

[English]

Border Trafficking in Children

1427. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made some effective bilateral arrangements with Nepal and Bangladesh to curb across the border trafficking in children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Human Rights Commission has taken up this matter with his Ministry; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) There are no bilateral arrangements with Nepal and Bangladesh to curb across the border trafficking in children.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). National Human Rights Commission has not taken up with Government the matter of effective bilateral arrangements with Nepal and Bangladesh to curb across the border trafficking in children. However, NHRC in June 1995 had referred to Government the case of a minor girl named Farida, an illegal immigrant in Delhi, for repatriation to Bangladesh. The Bangladesh High Commission at Delhi were approached by the Government for her repatriation.

[Translation]

Pak PM's Statement of J & K Elections

1428. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the remarks made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan regarding Parliamentary elections held recently in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether any protest has been lodged with the Government of Pakistan in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In the context of the Pakistani Prime Minister's address to the nation on 28 June, 1996, the official spokesman of MEA noted, "the tone of this address was at variance with the letter sent to our PM. We wonder which to take seriously?"

In his letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, PM had suggested the resumption of Foreign Secretary level dialogue between the two countries. We await Pakistan's response to our Prime Minister's letter.

[English]

Non-Permanent Membership in UNSC

1429. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have embarked on major initiative so as to ensure support for its bid to get a non-permanent seat in the United National Security Council;

(b) if so, the brief details thereof; and

(c) the names of the countries contacted so far and the time by which elections for the Security Council seats are scheduled to be held?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). India is a candidate for the non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council,